

Joel Roberts Poinsett to Andrew Jackson, February 28, 1833, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

JOEL R. POINSETT TO JACKSON.

Charleston, February 28, 1833.

My dear Sir, I had the satisfaction to receive your letter of the 19th Instant and am glad to learn, that the enforcing bill will pass. With regard to the tariff bill I am disposed to believe that it will be better for the country, that it should not pass during the present session. It is doubtless just and politic that the tariff should be modified; but to do it now would have the appearance of yielding to threats, and might affect the character and diminish the strength of the government. I am satisfied that the Leaders of the nullification party are determined to go on in their mad career. If the Tariff is not modified and the enforcing bill passes, which I presume will be the state of the case when congress rises, they will enforce their ordinance and proceed to make a new constitution and do all things, which a sovereign state may do. There is a rumour among them that they will submit their proceedings to the people for their approbation; but what part of their proceedings they will lay before them for that purpose I am at a loss to understand. The existing ordinance places them, as far as their own act is concerned, out of the union, and it may be their intention to submit to the people merely the new constitution. As I am aware that it is the determination of these men to proceed in their lawless career I have addressed a letter to the union members of that convention, the virtuous minority of 25, urging them not to be present at the meeting of the 11th March; and I have convoked the Union convention on the 18th of march in Charleston in order, that we may be prepared to act as promptly, as we art determined to do decidedly if they declare the state out of the union. I have taken measures to have the earliest intelligence of any military array or act of hostility against the laws of the U.S.

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and you may depend upon receiving advices of every movement, which it is important you should be acquainted with.

I have the honor to be very respectfully